

Catalonia's pandemonium, 2019 edition.

· First of all, I always remember Jacque Fresco's advice. We have to address the root causes of the world's problems, we have to ask ourselves questions. How can we avoid conflict, scarcity and other problems? That is why I wrote this years ago: [Catalonia and Spain. Transition to a new production model?](#)

· Secondly, with regard to the failed independence referendum in Catalonia and the aftermath, in principle the word 'referendum' sounds nice and simple (Socrates had a bad experience with that though). However we must consider the following points to understand why Spanish politicians are so reluctant to accept a referendum in the terms the separatist movement wants them to accept:

- The Spanish constitution doesn't allow the breakup of the territory nor independence referendums. So, in order to change that, they need to change the constitution, which in turn requires a national referendum. And Spanish politicians run away from that conundrum as if they were running away from the *chupacabras*.
- The Spanish state is one of the oldest nation states in Europe. That means centuries of cooperation, shared resources (also public and private debt), families with ties on both sides, huge investments in Catalonia coming from the rest of the country because they can trade more easily with the rest of Europe if they settle in Catalonia. You can imagine how difficult it is to break all those ties created for centuries. It's a pain in the neck.
- Spain is one of the most politically decentralized countries in the world, which brings advantages and some downsides as well. Catalan separatists took advantage of that to indoctrinate the Catalan population using the public education system and regional-funded media. They even impose fines on businesses for using the Spanish language instead of the Catalan language. Another alarming note is that Quim Torra, the current president of Catalonia, is a [Catalan supremacist who regards non-Catalan Spaniards as racially inferior beasts](#).

The result is a generation of young people blinded by prejudice and hatred against the rest of Spain.

- The separatist movement had a problem: They didn't have the majority of the votes in Catalonia. In fact, [they lost the popular vote in the last regional election \(47,5%\)](#) (they got the majority of the seats in the Parliament though because of the D'hont method). So, call me a conspiracy theorist, but I wouldn't be surprised if we discovered that separatist politicians secretly came up with this idea: *'Hey guys, let's organize an independence referendum anyway because we know the unionist part of the Catalan population will abide by the Spanish constitution and won't go to vote. Bingo! we can manufacture a favorable referendum result, and with some international pressure playing the victim card we can get our way!'*
- To make things worse, pro-independence politicians needed 90 of the seats in the Catalan Parliament to approve or change any fundamental law in Catalonia, according to their own rules. That would include a hypothetical declaration of independence if it were allowed by the Spanish constitution. [They got 72. They cheated on their own rules.](#)
- The failed referendum (rendered illegal) was not supported by the EU, yet according to the law that would rule the hypothetical Catalan state, Catalonia would be under the umbrella of the EU ([article 4](#))
- Last but not least, according to the law that would rule the hypothetical Catalan state, the new Catalan state would seize all the assets own by the Spanish state ([article 20](#)) while the distribution of the national debt wasn't addressed properly.

The result of this pandemonium so far:

- Two leaders of the Catalonia's separatist movement were jailed for allegedly organizing the siege of police forces that led to the destruction of vehicles and judicial evidence before the referendum. Finally they were sentenced to imprisonment for sedition. Also, politicians of the former government were jailed for allegedly organizing the illegal referendum and the subsequent illegal declaration of independence. Finally they were sentenced to imprisonment for sedition, disobedience, embezzlement,...
- The rise of violent separatist groups.

My advice to both sides, separatists and unionists, is still the same. Cool heads, don't do anything that may harm people irreversibly and don't do anything you may regret in the future. Violence breeds more hatred and hatred breeds more violence. Social wounds take generations to heal. Both sides need to get along despite their ideological differences.